9:Malkin E-5 (1953-1958)1962 NU31 Seri NU31

I

INTRODUCTION

121 localities, but I think it is advisable to include others, whose nature is not so different from the main places of Seris' habitations.

361 I have selected then 25 localities and I shall give 13 their main characteristics below:

1. **Punta Peñasco** — a village along the upper shores of the Gulf of California, close to the U.S., [491] connected by a paved highway from Gila Bend. Typical Sonoran zone with extensive sand flats. Very rarely visited by the Indians.

2. **Porto Libertad** — rocky shores, located some 30 miles north of Desemboque. A Mexican village frequently visited by the Seris.

3. **Desemboque** — Seris' main settlement after 1940, just north of and around Punto Tepopa, only a few miles from Tiburon. A narrow strip of poor land, thoroughly permeated with alkali and salt. Vegetation is very sparse. The mesquite, elephant bush, creosote bush, *Cholla* and *Sahuaro* are the main trees. No *Palo Verde* or *Palo Fierro*. *Ocotillios*, *Sahuaros* and mesquite are stunted and scarce, only toward the mountains increasing in frequency and size. Along the shores, sand dunes [172] with kitchen middens, partly covered by vegetation. An arroyo nearby is empty except on a few occasions during the year when flash flood after rains rushes through. Rainfall very scarce. During the summer of 1953 I spent there, it rained very little—only twice and that was short and feeble. [312] Water is obtained from a well, near which there is a Mexican ranch where, owing to irrigation, some vegetables are grown and weeds are present such as *Datura*. The coast is largely rocky. Narrow beaches lack wide sand bars. Hence the fauna here is poor.

4. **Estero Sargente** — alkali flats and mud flats some 25 km. south of Desemboque along the coast. Vegetation very scarce. *Sahuaros* and *Ocotillios* and other desert trees grow some distance from the shore. Short grasses in some places clump the coastal dunes. Breeding and feeding place of many shore birds, especially of willets and egrets. On the alkali flats near the shore are many peculiar insects, not found in Desemboque, particularly tiger beetles and Oedemerids.

5. **Campo Vivora** — little more than half way down toward Desemboque from Estero Sargente, [103] also along the coast. So named after supposedly numerous rattlesnakes. Clumpy grasses. Favorite encampment of the Seris and others while fishing and hunting turtle. The only loggerhead turtle I have seen was right here.

[491] 6. **Porto Kino** — fishing village directly due east of Hermosillo, nowdays connected with Sonora's

[P. 1 B]

Malkin E-5 (1953-1955)1962 NU31 Seri NU31

361 13 [491] [166] capital by paved road. Formerly, in the twenties and early thirties, Seris' chief mainland settlement. Now with the influx of the Mexicans, the Seris deserted the place completely as a camp site, although they still visit it occasionally. Distinct in the extensive sand beaches and sand marine flats which harbor peculiar bird, fish and insect fauna.

7. **Guaymas**—southernmost point considered here and probably also of the Seris' historical extension. Nowadays very rarely visited by them and probably only while cruising with the Mexicans. Large settlement, many tourists. Backlands; rocky desert.

8. **Tepopa**—spectacular rocky head just south of Desemboque, opposite to Tiburon. Caves, usual mountainous vegetation, *Sahuaro*. Many Seri hunting encampments and one of the places where the Sonoran bighorn is still hunted.

9. **Coast of Baja California** — very rocky area across the bay—almost never visited by the Indians.

13 10. **Tiburon**—island in the Gulf of California separated from the mainland by a narrow channel called "Infernillo," only a mile wide. Rugged, mountainous. By **Tiburon** is meant an overall island area in distinction from **Tecomate** or the mountains.

[361] [221] 11. **Tecomate** — a water-hole and Seri campsite on the northern shore of Tiburon. Today this is the only permanent site on the island where these Indians, actually only a few families among them, still go to live for part of the year.

12. **Mountains of Tiburon** — rugged interior of the island, reaching up to almost 4000 feet. Usual vegetation cover with *Sahuaro* and other typically Sonoran floral components, fauna much as on the mainland except lacking cougar, bighorn and some other larger forms. The interior does have some "tenajas," that is water-holes and there is said to be a rivulet up in the mountains.

13. **Infernillo**—narrow channel between Tiburon and the mainland, often called locally "canal." For the terrestrial fauna and for birds reference is made to the mainland shores of Infernillo. For the marine fauna is meant either the open water in this channel or to the littoral off the mainland. The opposite shores and littorals are covered as "Tiburon." Maximum depth is said to be up to 25 fathoms.

14. **Isla Patos** — small island north of Tiburon and directly due west of Estero Sargente and halfway between Tiburon and Punto Tepopa. Visited by the Indians only occasionally, mostly in connection with the duck hunt. [223]

15. **Isla Raza** — a small island between Angel de la Guarda and San Lorenzo.

16. **San Esteban Island**—a round island between Tiburon and San Lorenzo, up to 1700 feet elevation. Visited occasionally during fishing or turtle hunt trips or in search of a chuckawalla. [221]

[P. 2A]